

Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to DHMH for the week ending February 23, 2013

Prepared by the Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response
Prevention and Health Promotion Administration
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

SUMMARY

During the week ending February 23, 2013, influenza-like illness (ILI) intensity in Maryland was **MINIMAL** with **REGIONAL** geographic spread of influenza. All indicators continue their downward trend. Type B influenza is now predominant.

[Click here to visit our influenza surveillance web page](#)

ILI Intensity Levels

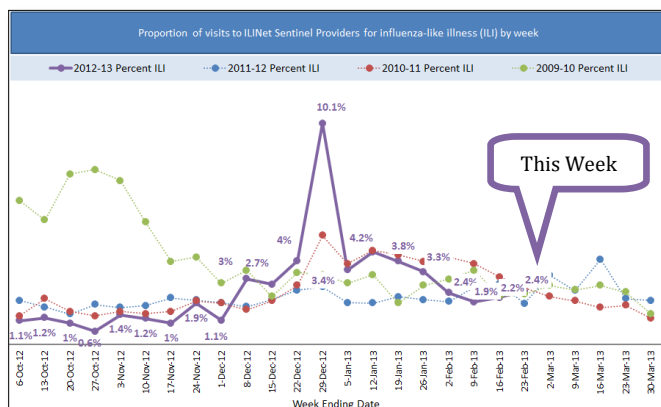
✓ Minimal
Low
Moderate
High

Influenza Geographic Spread

No Activity
Sporadic
Local
✓ Regional
Widespread

ILINet Sentinel Providers

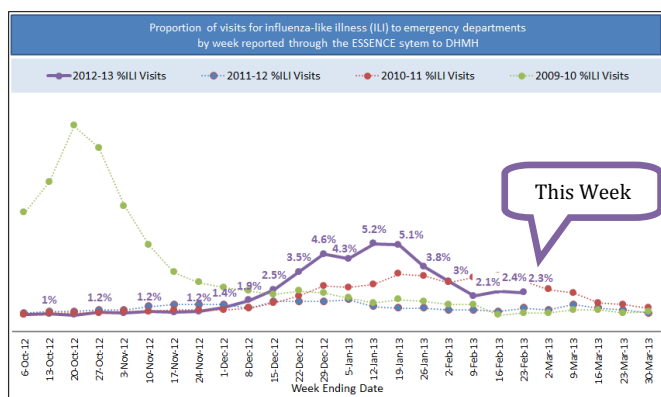
Ten sentinel providers reported a total of 6,820 visits last week. Of those, 167 (2.4%) were visits for ILI. This is **below** the Maryland baseline of 2.9%.



ILI Visits To Sentinel Providers By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	25 (15%)	43 (22%)	894 (23%)
Age 5-24	90 (54%)	78 (40%)	1,612 (41%)
Age 25-49	37 (22%)	57 (29%)	1,033 (26%)
Age 50-64	13 (8%)	16 (8%)	292 (7%)
Age ≥ 65	2 (1%)	2 (1%)	125 (3%)
Total ILI Visits	167 (100%)	196 (100%)	3,956 (100%)

Visits to Emergency Departments for ILI

Emergency Departments in Maryland reported a total of 45,507 visits through the [ESSENCE surveillance system](#). Of those, 1,056 (2.3%) were visits for ILI.



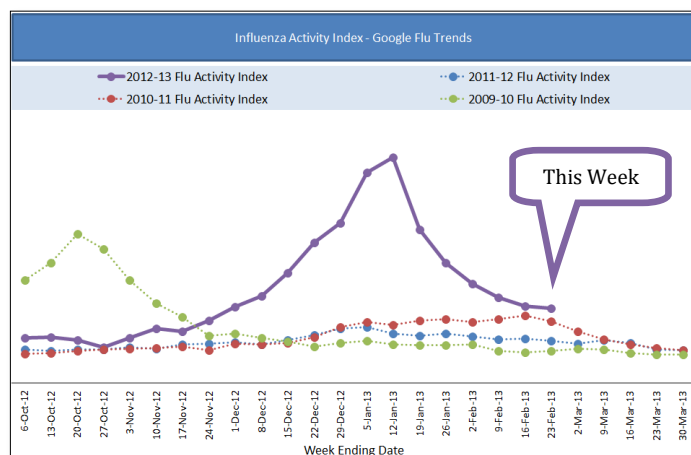
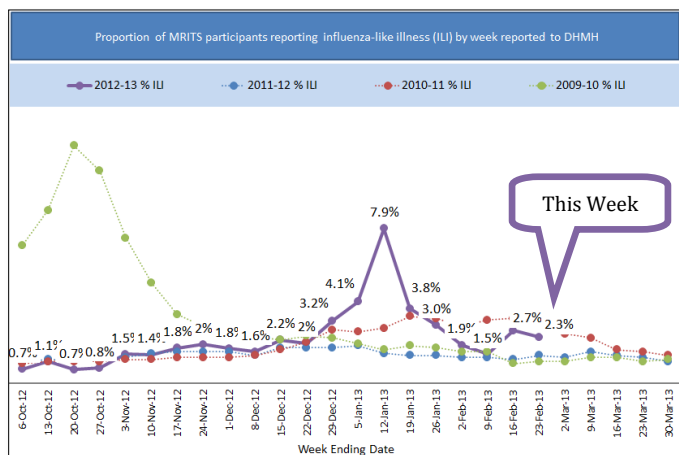
ILI Visits To Emergency Departments By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	224 (21%)	238 (21%)	6,097 (25%)
Age 5-24	371 (35%)	365 (33%)	7,148 (29%)
Age 25-49	304 (29%)	333 (30%)	7,362 (30%)
Age 50-64	112 (11%)	130 (12%)	2,564 (10%)
Age ≥ 65	45 (4%)	45 (4%)	1,335 (5%)
Total ILI Visits	1,056 (100%)	1,111 (100%)	24,506 (100%)

Neighboring states' influenza information:

Delaware <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/epi/influenzahome.html>
District of Columbia <http://doh.dc.gov/service/influenza>
Pennsylvania http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza_flu/14161
Virginia <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/Epidemiology/Surveillance/Influenza/>
West Virginia <http://dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/flu/Pages/fluSurveillance.aspx>

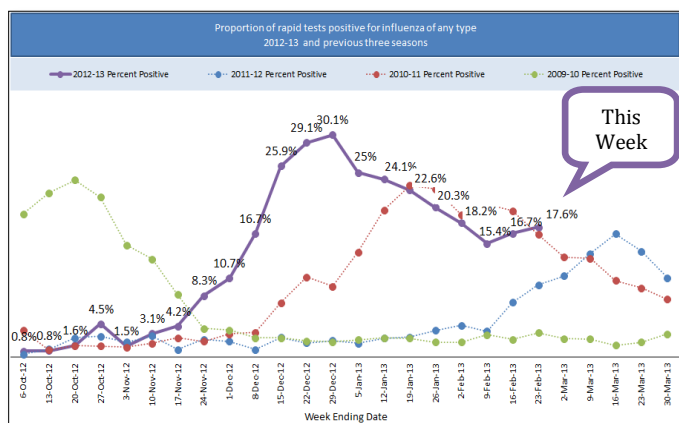
Community-based Influenza Surveillance (MRITS and Google Flu Trends)

A total of 644 responses to the [weekly flu survey](#) (MRITS) were received. Of those, 15 (2.3%) reported ILI with a cumulative 35 days of regular daily activities lost due to illness. According to [Google Flu Trends](#), influenza activity continues to be "high" in Maryland.

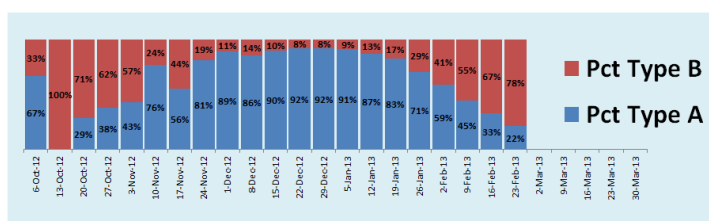


Clinical Laboratory Influenza Testing

Twenty-seven clinical laboratories reported 3,235 rapid influenza tests performed. Of those, 570 (17.6%) were positive. Of those testing positive, 123 were positive for influenza type A, and 447 were positive for type B. (Rapid influenza tests are not as accurate as PCR tests. Now that the State Laboratories Administration has reported positive PCR tests for influenza, rapid positive tests are counted as lab-confirmed cases for surveillance purposes.)

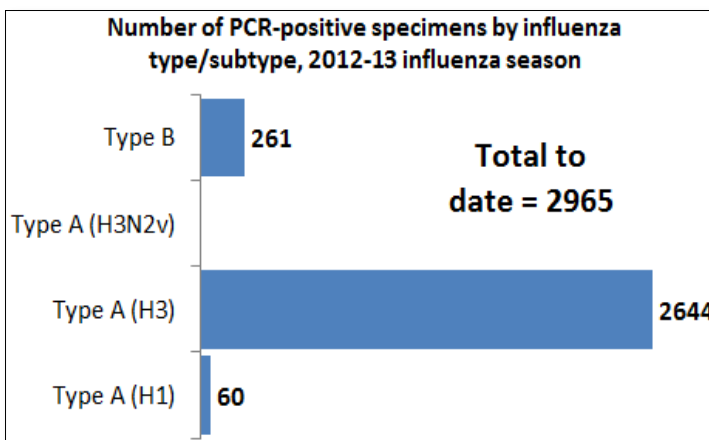
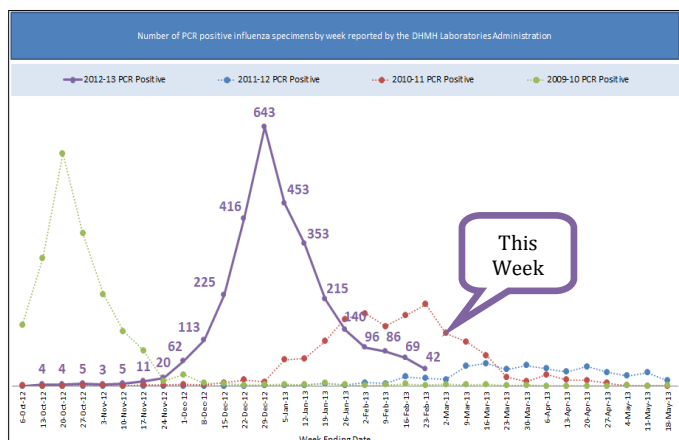


Positive Rapid Flu Tests by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A	123 (22%)	173 (33%)	9,989 (78%)
Type B	447 (78%)	354 (67%)	2,750 (22%)
Total	570 (100%)	527 (100%)	12,739 (100%)



State Laboratories Administration Influenza Testing

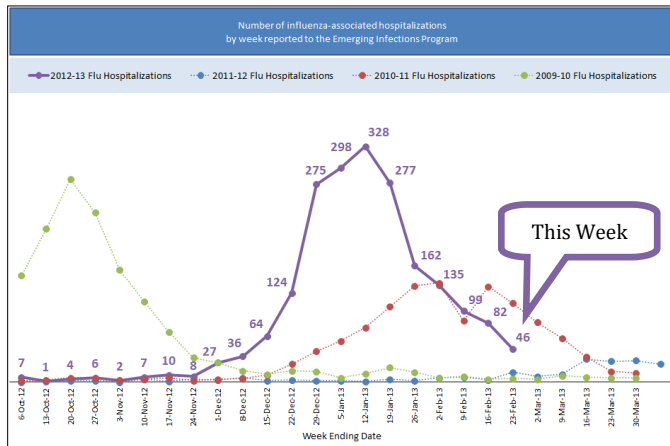
The State Laboratories Administration has reported 2,965 PCR-positive specimens from 4,914 total tests reported this flu season. Of those positives, 2,644 (89%) were type A (H3), 261 (9%) were type B, and 60 (2%) were type A (H1N1). Influenza tests performed at the State Laboratory are considered the gold standard of influenza laboratory testing for influenza surveillance purposes.



Go to <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/flumd/SitePages/getvaccinated.aspx> and click on your county/city of residence. You will be redirected to your local health department website for local information on where to get your flu vaccine.

Influenza-associated Hospitalizations

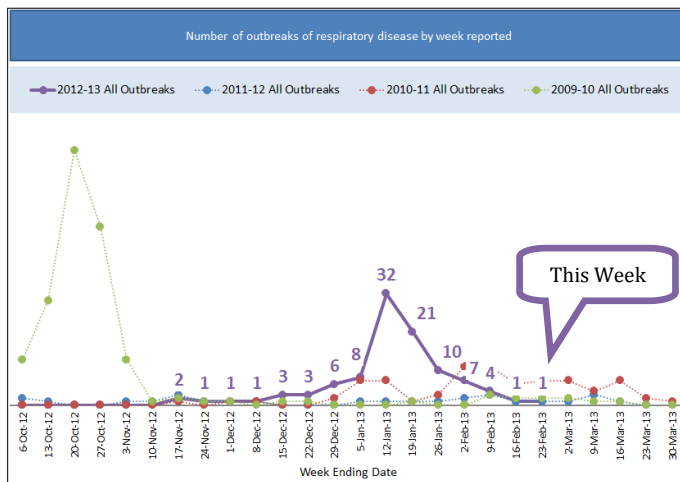
Hospitals in Maryland reported 46 influenza-associated hospitalizations. (A person with an overnight hospital stay along with a positive influenza test of any kind, e.g. rapid test or PCR, is considered an "influenza-associated hospitalization" for purposes of influenza surveillance.)



Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations by Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	13 (28%)	15 (18%)	185 (9%)
Age 5-17	2 (4%)	6 (7%)	84 (4%)
Age 18-24	3 (7%)	3 (4%)	79 (4%)
Age 25-49	9 (20%)	16 (20%)	300 (15%)
Age 50-64	9 (20%)	11 (13%)	354 (18%)
Age ≥ 65	10 (22%)	31 (38%)	996 (50%)
Total	46 (100%)	82 (100%)	1,998 (100%)

Outbreaks of Respiratory Disease

One outbreak of influenza was reported to DHMH. (Disease outbreaks of any kind are reportable in Maryland. Respiratory outbreaks may be reclassified once a causative agent is detected, e.g. from ILI to influenza.)



Respiratory Outbreaks by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Influenza	1 (100%)	-- --	74 (73%)
Influenza-like Illness	-- --	1 (25%)	19 (19%)
Pneumonia	-- --	-- --	8 (8%)
Other Respiratory	-- --	-- --	-- --
Total	1 (100%)	1 (100%)	101 (100%)

National Influenza Surveillance (CDC)

During the week ending February 23, 2013, influenza activity remained elevated in the United States, but decreased in most areas.

- Viral Surveillance:** Of 7,609 specimens tested and reported by collaborating laboratories, 1,288 (16.9%) were positive for influenza.
- Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality:** The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was above the epidemic threshold.
- Influenza-Associated Pediatric Deaths:** Three pediatric deaths were reported.
- Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations:** A cumulative rate for the season of 36.7 laboratory-confirmed influenza-associated hospitalizations per 100,000 population was reported. Of reported hospitalizations, over 51% were among adults 65 years and older.
- Outpatient Illness Surveillance:** The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 2.7%. This is above the national baseline of 2.2%. Eight of 10 regions reported ILI at or above region-specific baseline levels. Twelve states and New York City experienced moderate activity; 15 states experienced low activity, and 23 states and the District of Columbia experienced minimal activity.
- Geographic Spread of Influenza:** Twelve states reported widespread influenza activity; Puerto Rico and 28 states reported regional influenza activity; 7 states and the District of Columbia reported local influenza activity; 3 states reported sporadic influenza activity; Guam reported no influenza activity, and the U.S. Virgin Islands did not report.

